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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

The latest revised cotton textile export figures for the calendar year 1952 indicate that Japan led the United States by a slight margin: Japan 761,844,000 square yards; United States, 761,565,000 square yards.

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Following lengthy deliberations between government officials of the Egyptian Cotton Commission and leaders of the Cotton Exchange in Cairo the Minister of Finance announced that the Futures Exchange will not be reopened in this or the next season (1953-54). The Government will, accordingly, continue to buy cotton from growers at what it considers a fair price, and sell it at prices based on New York quotations. The present government buying price will probably be reduced next season to reflect the lowering in land rentals.

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Shipments of Indian cotton from Bombay in March aggregated 24,257 bales (19,810 bales of 500 pounds gross). Principal destinations were, in Indian bales, Japan, 9,290; United States, 3,626; Federal Republic of Germany, 2,540; and France, 2,264. It is estimated that a total of 256,000 bales (209,000 bales of 500 pounds gross) was exported from all ports of India in the 8 months ending March 31, 1953, compared with only 2,600 bales in the corresponding period of last season.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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WORLD POTATO PRODUCTION IN 1952-53 SAME AS PREVIOUS SEASON BUT SPOTTY

Potato production in 70 countries, including all the important potato producing areas in the world, is estimated at about 8 billion bushels in 1952-53. This is only slightly larger than the production in 1951-52 for the same 70 countries, but 4 percent below the prewar average production of 8.4 billion bushels.

The 1952-53 estimate includes preliminary figures for countries in the Southern Hemisphere where part of the 1953 harvest is yet uncompleted, particularly of some of the late crop varieties.

The nearly equal production estimated for the 2 recent years does not mean that production conditions in the 2 seasons were alike. The fact is they were markedly different in several areas. Growing conditions in the northern most areas of both North America and Europe were unusually favorable to potatoes. The season in the southern parts of the Northern Hemisphere was unfavorable and in areas between they were spotted.

In Canada for example the 1953 yield per acre was 18 percent higher than the year previous, in Norway it was 19 percent higher, Finland 16 percent, Denmark 14 percent and in the Netherlands and Belgium almost 10 percent higher. In the United States and Sweden yields were only 2 to 4 percent above the previous year. In the more southern areas of France, Portugal, Yugoslavia and Italy the 1952 yields were down. In France they were 7 percent below 1951, Italy 6 percent, Portugal 20 percent and Yugoslavia 31 percent.

In the middle areas, Germany for example, average 1952 yields were 4 percent below 1951. But in southern Germany yields were 10 to 18 percent below. The season was unfavorable also in the lower elevation of Austria but for the country as a whole the 1953 yield was almost as high as in 1951. From this and other information it appears that the 1953 potato season was unfavorable in most of Europe south of the middle of Germany. There was one exception reported. This was in Switzerland where the 1952 yield was 13 percent above 1951. The most favored spots were Scandanavia and Canada. Further to the east in Greece, Turkey, and Israel, yields were favorable in 1952. The least favorable was southern Europe and North Africa.

It is too early for definite conclusion regarding the Southern Hemisphere. But general conditions are known to have been good in Argentina, Chile and New Zealand. Favorable potato crops can be expected from most of these countries. But their production is very minor. Only 2 percent of the total world production is grown in Africa and South America. About 5 percent is grown in North America where Canada and the United States are the only major producers, 33 percent in Western Europe and 20 percent behind the Iron Curtain countries. Estimates for Iron Curtain countries are based on fragmentary information.--By Orval E. Goodsell, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

POTATOES: Acreage, yield and production in specified countries averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-52

Continent and country	Acreage				Yield per acre				Production			
	Average				Average				Average			
	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952 1/	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952 1/	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952 1/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA												
Canada	539	373	285	294	124	175	170	201	66,571	65,300	48,355	58,957
El Salvador	1	1	2	2	22	35	50	50	22	41	100	100
Guatemala	9	10	10	10	41	48	47	48	383	483	470	475
Honduras	3	4	4	4	18	35	38	38	60	133	150	150
Mexico	37	69	75	75	69	68	64	64	2,547	4,693	4,777	4,777
Panama, Republic of	1	1	1	1	40	74	70	37	30	74	70	37
United States	3,033	2,284	1,334	1,398	117	189	240	249	355,504	431,641	320,515	347,504
Bermuda	2	1	1	1	40	55	41	50	79	55	41	50
Cuba	20	24	25	25	95	125	152	152	1,894	3,009	3,804	3,800
Dominican Republic	2	4	3	3	48	30	20	26	96	69	60	77
Jamaica	2	3	3	3	30	30	27	25	60	33	80	75
Total	3,649	2,774	1,743	1,816	117	182	217	229	427,246	505,531	378,422	416,002
EUROPE												
Austria	507	423	469	469	206	168	204	201	104,632	71,135	95,532	94,430
Belgium	2/ 425	233	242	234	2/ 294	287	325	355	2/ 124,801	66,803	78,680	83,000
Denmark	188	277	260	267	254	264	283	323	47,668	73,312	73,599	86,310
Finland	213	211	235	237	228	205	216	250	48,624	43,305	50,853	59,359
France	3,786	2,863	2,708	2,590	167	161	182	169	631,052	460,217	493,826	437,797
Germany	2,871	2,660	2,858	2,834	250	237	321	309	718,100	631,000	916,746	876,478
Greece	53	75	94	98	100	140	162	170	5,308	10,487	15,253	16,704
Iceland	2	2	2	2	142	136	180	180	284	273	360	360
Ireland	328	379	321	308	300	291	322	301	98,286	110,348	103,256	92,631
Italy	993	982	955	968	97	90	109	103	96,433	88,460	104,357	99,232
Malta	9	8	7	7	118	75	64	64	1,104	617	450	450
Netherlands	320	474	384	397	315	340	363	397	100,744	161,097	139,463	157,445
Norway	127	152	145	143	259	280	257	305	32,830	42,537	37,294	43,614
Portugal	77	195	230	213	270	170	222	177	20,755	33,180	51,086	37,661
Spain	1,125	893	914	914	152	112	161	151	170,977	99,743	146,973	137,787
Sweden	326	353	323	337	204	195	200	203	66,631	68,742	64,534	68,416
Switzerland	116	173	140	141	220	252	276	313	25,531	43,521	38,580	44,092
United Kingdom	720	1,402	1,050	990	254	259	295	296	182,859	362,551	309,269	292,992
Yugoslavia	699	650	558	567	89	77	108	74	62,026	50,000	60,373	41,740
Total above	12,885	12,405	11,895	11,716	197	195	234	228	2,538,645	2,417,328	2,780,484	2,670,498
Other Europe 3/	11,830	9,807	11,229	11,173	203	165	159	144	2,401,352	1,616,034	1,783,150	1,608,125
Total Europe	24,715	22,212	23,124	22,889	200	182	195	182	4,939,997	4,033,362	4,563,634	4,278,623
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	20,203	22,131	23,400	23,400	134	125	111	124	2,713,054	2,770,500	2,600,000	2,900,000

ASIA												
Cyprus	6	10	13	12	148	135	140	125	958	1,350	1,817	1,500
Israel 4/	1	2	5	9	84	58	182	201	84	1,212	992	1,839
Lebanon	5/	11	7	9	5/	121	124	124	5/	1,335	919	1,102
Syria	6/ 17	8	10	10	6/ 90	83	55	74	6/ 1,531	689	551	735
Turkey	135	151	211	210	49	79	117	119	6,645	11,897	24,618	25,000
India	400	542	618	600	100	97	103	100	40,000	52,733	63,504	60,000
Indonesia	27	14	18	18	72	50	56	56	1,941	698	1,000	1,000
Japan	388	531	488	488	165	141	193	189	64,103	74,930	94,401	92,403
North Korea	221	237	260	260	77	74	62	62	17,097	17,559	16,000	16,000
South Korea	47	120	115	95	95	85	78	95	4,447	10,240	8,971	9,000
Philippine Islands	1	1	1	1	70	70	70	70	9	8	8	8
Total	1,243	1,627	1,746	1,712	110	106	122	122	136,815	172,651	212,781	208,587
SOUTH AMERICA												
Argentina	311	432	385	400	85	86	93	100	26,523	36,978	35,825	40,000
Bolivia	125	150	170	175	56	53	58	57	7,000	8,000	9,921	10,000
Brazil	168	325	380	370	94	71	70	70	15,775	23,202	26,505	26,000
Chile	121	131	124	125	129	152	145	144	15,622	19,910	17,994	18,000
Colombia	167	242	250	250	81	71	79	72	13,467	17,222	18,000	18,000
Ecuador	62	62	60	60	78	45	50	50	4,450	2,806	3,000	3,000
Peru	400	450	482	485	75	81	82	82	30,157	36,601	39,609	40,000
Uruguay	18	22	27	25	63	56	68	60	1,135	1,239	1,837	1,500
Venezuela	15	15	12	12	24	37	92	83	367	551	1,100	1,000
Total	1,387	1,829	1,890	1,902	83	80	81	83	114,496	146,509	153,791	157,500
AFRICA												
Algeria	45	45	54	55	124	126	170	164	5,575	5,690	9,186	9,000
Belgian Congo	3	3	7	7	110	125	89	86	288	358	611	600
Egypt	10	33	26	25	181	198	247	244	1,813	6,540	6,423	6,099
Eritrea	1	2	2	2	36	40	40	40	6	88	75	80
Madagascar	31	53	47	45	52	46	67	20	1,615	2,416	3,164	909
Mauritius	1	1	1	1	131	81	130	125	31	81	130	125
Mozambique	3	5	1	1	78	75	75	75	78	118	120	120
Nigeria and Cameroons	2	2	1	1	30	37	40	40	21	29	40	40
Southern Rhodesia	3	5	4	4	81	87	100	100	254	437	400	400
Tunisia	6	5	5	5	65	134	120	120	393	681	600	600
Union of South Africa	89	151	140	140	88	67	64	64	6,697	10,143	9,023	9,000
Total	194	305	288	286	86	87	103	94	16,771	26,581	29,772	26,973
OCEANIA												
Australia	114	144	125	125	113	136	112	120	12,900	19,577	14,000	15,000
New Zealand	21	20	13	16	221	232	172	222	4,651	4,634	2,240	3,547
Total	135	164	138	141	130	148	118	132	17,551	24,211	16,240	18,547
WORLD TOTAL	51.526	51,042	52,329	52,146	162	150	152	154	8,365,930	7,679,345	7,954,640	8,006,232

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Not comparable with later years as prewar years apparently include small farms and gardens. 3/ Includes Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany (Eastern Zone), Hungary, Poland and Rumania. 4/ Jewish farming only. 5/ Included with Syria. 6/ Includes Lebanon.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U. S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Years shown refer to year of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere and includes the harvest immediately following in the Southern Hemisphere. Averages are for years stated or for the nearest comparable period. The yields per acre for countries having a small production were calculated on the basis of unrounded estimates of acreage.

CANADA REPORTS LARGE MARCH 31 GRAIN STOCKS

Total stocks of grain in Canada at the end of March were at a near-record level, second only to the record March 31, 1943 stocks. Total stocks of the 4 principal grains, on a tonnage basis, were 20 percent above stocks of the previous year and 63 percent above the average of the 10 years ended 1952. The largest numerical gain was in wheat, with barley and rye stocks only slightly above those of March 1952 and oats slightly less than 1952 stocks. Data for the March stocks, released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, include data obtained from the Bureau's annual March 31 survey of grain held on farms and from mill returns as well as stocks in commercial positions.

Total stocks of Canadian wheat in all North American positions on March 31 were estimated at 606.3 million bushels, compared with 465.9 million a year ago and the record of 762.4 million in 1943. Stocks remaining on farms at the end of March were 329 million bushels. This is a new record for farm stocks and is about 54 percent of total stocks, the same percentage on farms as were in that position a year ago. Of the 277.3 million bushels of wheat off farms, 144.6 million bushels, or 24 percent of total stocks were in country elevators in the Prairie Provinces. This is a slightly higher percentage than in that position a year ago.

Rye stocks were estimated at 23.7 million bushels. This is an all-time record for March rye stocks, exceeding by 2.2 million the previous high of 21.5 million bushels in 1943. Farm stocks were estimated at 10.1 million bushels and rye in elevators at Fort William-Port Arthur, at 7.1 million bushels.

Barley stocks were also at a new high level with the current supply of 217.8 million bushels exceeding the high level of a year ago by 21.5 million bushels. Stocks on farms, at 144.8 million bushels, were about the same as farm stocks in 1952. The bulk of the increase over March 1952 stocks was in supplies in country and Lakehead elevators.

March stocks of oats, estimated at 310 million bushels were down slightly from the 1952 stocks and were well below the record of 393.5 million on hand in March 1943. Of the total, 266.7 million bushels remained on farms. This is 86 percent of total stocks in Canada on March 31.

The unusually early opening of navigation on the Great Lakes this season has relieved congestion in terminals at the Lakehead, and stocks of all grains in that position are less than at the end of March 1952. Though not officially open until April 1, some movement began the last week of March. The official opening date for shipping on the Lakes was the earliest since 1902. About 27 million bushels of grain were reported shipped by lake vessels during the first 10 days of April.

Canada: Grain stocks in all positions, March 31, 1953, with comparisons

Position	Wheat	Oats 1/	Barley	Rye
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
In Canada				
On farms	329,050	266,700	144,780	10,126
Country elevators	144,638	27,514	41,334	3,798
Interior private and mill elevators	6,168	618	2,333	23
Interior terminal elevators	14,279	7	559	-
Vancouver-New Westminster elevators	6,184	277	746	-
Victoria elevator	148	2/	-	-
Prince Rupert elevator	-	-	254	-
Churchill elevator	2,048	2/	-	-
Fort William-Port Arthur elevators	33,849	5,749	18,205	7,054
In transit, lake	6,262	174	449	-
In transit, rail	28,997	6,290	6,301	1,285
Eastern elevators	29,977	1,504	2,222	519
Eastern mills	2,332	287	154	2/
Western mills	375	137	58	10
Total	604,307	309,257	217,395	22,815
Canadian grain in the United States	2,038	697	394	902
Total Canadian grain in North America	606,345	309,954	217,789	23,717
March 31, 1952 stocks				
In Canada	460,764	318,351	196,292	13,329
In the United States	5,099	430	-	499
Total in North America	465,863	318,781	196,292	13,828
1943-1952 average	380,945	223,652	104,165	9,836

1/ As reported in bushels of 34 pounds. 2/ Less than 500 bushels.

From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks other than on farms and in mills are compiled by the Board of Grain Commissioners as of April 1.

RATIONING OF IMPORTED FEED GRAINS ABOLISHED IN NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture has announced that imported feed grains and other animal feeds will not be rationed after April 26. The Ministry also announced that as soon as present Government stocks of coarse grains have been reduced, domestic trade in all imported grains except wheat will be further liberalized.

As outlined by the Ministry, grain buyers will then be permitted to import directly from abroad instead of being required to buy from the Government Food Import Bureau, now the sole buyer and distributor of imported feed grains. Government control of domestic trade in grains will be limited to fixing minimum and maximum prices. The minimum price for each imported feed grain will be fixed at the equivalent of the cost of producing that grain domestically.

In case the world market price should fall below the fixed minimum for any grain, the Government would collect a levy on local sales of that grain, sufficient to bring the price up to the minimum level. Maximum prices will be set fairly high, and it appears unlikely that those ceilings will be reached.

During the transition period, preceding the trade liberalization, all feed grain buyers are to continue buying from the Government agency under the present quota system at fixed prices. Assuming fairly stable world grain market conditions, the transition period is expected to last about 3 months. Prices will be based each week on current quotations on the Chicago grain market, plus storage and handling charges, with related prices for the various grades being imported.

The liberalization of the grain trade is a welcome development especially since, with import restrictions being removed during a period of declining prices on the world grain market, it is expected that there will be no feed grain shortages and no sudden price fluctuations. Moreover, it seems probable that with declining prices purchases may be made advantageously without substantially increased expenditures of hard currency.

The liberalization of the grain trade will mean that Rotterdam will again become a market for grain futures, with transactions on a daily basis, instead of a weekly basis as it now is. Trading will be extended to shippers, grain dealers, and industrial firms; whereas there are now only about 45 importing firms licensed to buy imported feed grains from the Import Bureau. Under the present quota system purchases are based on the quantities of grain imported by the various firms in 1931. Elimination of feed rationing will be especially beneficial to small-scale hog owners and poultry breeders, who formerly had some difficulty in obtaining needed supplies.

FRANCE PLANS COTTON INDUSTRY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

A modernization plan prepared by the cotton textile industry of France has recently been outlined in the press and confirmed by the national cotton manufacturers association, according to a report by Frederick R. Mangold, American Embassy, Paris. The purpose is to bring down production costs so that the domestic market may be expanded and so that French cotton goods may compete in foreign markets. The most significant feature of the plan is the proposed elimination of high-cost producers; the plan in substance, is as follows:

On the basis of statistical and market studies cotton mills have been classified according to their production costs. Taking these and other factors into account, mills have been divided into two categories; the first category includes all mills deemed efficient producers or susceptible of becoming so. These will be left as they are, modernized, regrouped, or transplanted, as the occasion may call for. The second category includes inefficient producers which will be completely eliminated, their equipment either being sold abroad to countries beginning their industrial development, or else scrapped, and their plants either being converted to other industries, particularly electrical or mechanical, or else abandoned.

The owners of mills in both categories will be compensated from a "modernization fund" which is currently being raised within the industry. Provision will also be made for personnel temporarily or permanently thrown out of work during the implementation of the plan.

It is expected that it will take several years to execute the modernization plan. It will come under the scope of the second "Modernization Plan" (Monnet Plan) at present being drawn up by the French Government and will thus dispose of some credit from that source. Nevertheless, the greater part of financing will come from the industry itself.

The plan will be presented to the government, which will be asked to reduce certain taxes, simplify certain administrative procedures, create conversion centers for displaced personnel, link wages to productivity, and stimulate raw cotton production in French Overseas Territories.

CANADIAN COTTON CONSUMPTION FAIRLY STEADY

Activity in Canadian cotton mills during March continued to reflect the stability evident in recent months, according to a statement recently released by the Cotton Institute of Canada. A total of 32,971 bales of raw cotton were opened by domestic mills last month, a decrease of 52 bales, compared with the previous month and the lowest total since last November.

While business has been fairly steady during recent months there has, nevertheless, been a slight downward trend and manufacturers are of the opinion that business is not showing the expected improvement from the depression of last year.

Index of activity for March was 130.0 (based on 1935-39 equals 100) compared with 128.9 for the previous month and 120.1 for March of 1952.

PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF RECENT BARTER TRANSACTIONS

The Government of Pakistan has announced details of the cotton yarn to be received under agreements by which Pakistan bartered 98,000 bales (roughly 80,000 bales of 500 pounds gross) of old-crop cotton. They are, by countries: Lebanon, 20,600 bales of yarn; Italy, 7,862; Holland, 2,785; Belgium, 490; Hongkong, 16,565; and Japan, 510 bales of cotton yarn. In addition, new-crop cotton to the value of Rs. 2,500,000 ($754,000) was bartered with Italy for rayon yarn.

MALAYA SEEKS EXPORT MARKETS FOR PALM OIL

The Federation of Malaya is encouraging the development of export markets for palm oil outside the United Kingdom, reports J. R. Johnstone, Agricultural Officer, American Consulate General, Singapore.

During 1952 the bulk of the Malayan palm oil was marketed through a central agent located in Singapore and sold to the British Ministry of Food. However, in early 1953, the demand for palm oil in the United Kingdom fell sharply and export arrangements for other markets are now more liberal. Furthermore, new oil palm estates are free to export where they wish. A recent adjustment of ocean freight rates has made it possible for a shipment of around 400 long tons of oil to go to Halifax, and it is hoped that other ports in eastern Canada, as well as New York, might reasonably become markets for Malayan palm oil. Current demand for palm kernels, unlike palm oil, is strong. The prevailing high price of coconut oil is encouraging the use of palm kernel oil as a substitute.

The Malayan Government is seriously interested in an expansion in oil palm acreage. Considerable research is being undertaken to determine the most suitable varieties for planting, and this is one of the major projects of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Serdang (near Kuala Lumpur).

During calendar 1952, the total output of palm oil was officially estimated at 45,095 long tons or about 6.5 percent below the 48,274 tons produced in 1951. Communist terrorists' activities were cited as a major cause of the decline. Kernel production in 1952 amounted to 11,248 tons compared with 11,771 tons in 1951. Palm kernels are not processed in Malaya but are exported principally to Western European countries. Area planted to palms last year was 98,610 acres against 97,933 the year before. The production of palm oil and palm kernels is almost exclusively on an estate basis. Local consumption is comparatively unimportant at present but is expected to attain some importance in the immediate future due to the recent establishment of a large soap factory at Kuala Lumpur. Stocks on January 1, 1953 may have approximated 4,000 tons. Kernel stocks are normally small, and probably did not exceed 1,000 tons on January 1.

Malayan trade in palm oil during 1951 and 1952 was as follows in long tons:

Exports

Country of destination	1951	1952
United Kingdom	44,170	45,659
Netherlands	429	0
Iraq	398	161
Egypt	375	11
Italy	364	35
India	249	238
Others	563	47
Total	46,548	46,151

Imports

Country of origin		
Indonesia	1,526	95
Others	0	48
Total	1,526	143

Source: Malayan Statistics

Exports of palm kernels about equal production. Shipments in 1951 and 1952 were as follows in long tons:

Country of destination	1951	1952
Netherlands	5,897	4,574
Germany	1,791	3,051
Denmark	1,636	1,893
United Kingdom	800	1,351
Others	1,685	0
Total	11,809	10,869

Source: Malayan Statistics

The f.o.b. price of Malayan palm oil, which had been M$1,150 (U.S.$379.50) per long ton in February 1952, dropped to M$790 ($260.70) by mid-September. Stronger demand then reversed the trend until by early December the price reached M$950 ($313.50) and then leveled off to M$875 ($288.75), the price on January 5. By March 30, the price had again declined to M$850 ($280.50). The failure of palm oil to recover in price to the same extent as coconut oil is attributable mainly to the large scale drop in demand in the United Kingdom.

MALAYA REPORTS COPRA SHORTAGE FOR LOCAL OIL MILLS

During 1953 the Federation of Malaya has had a definite shortage of copra for use by local oil mills, according to J. R. Johnstone, Agricultural Officer, American Consulate General, Singapore. Most Singapore mills either are closed or are operating only on a part-time basis. Indonesia is the main foreign source of copra to supplement the inadequate domestic output, and Indonesia reportedly has been curtailing shipments, preferring rather to market copra in Western Europe. Moreover, the high world price of copra has stimulated the activities of f.o.b. dealers. These dealers buy copra abroad, mainly in Indonesia, and resell it where they can get the highest price. Consequently, if local oil millers want the copra, they must match the best foreign offer.

Coconut production in Malaya is largely a smallholder enterprise. During calendar 1952, copra production was reported officially at 154,365 long tons compared with 160, 042 tons in 1951. In both years, the smallholder output equaled about 75 percent of the total.

Although there is a sizable export of copra from Singapore, the shipments are re-exports. Domestic copra is processed locally into coconut oil. Furthermore, important quantities of coconut oil are manufactured from imported copra. Coconut oil output in 1952, amounted to 106,805 tons or only slightly larger than the 106,144 tons produced in 1951. The bulk of the oil is crude, destined for export or local soap production. Copra cake production totaled 67,129 tons in 1952 and 67,984 tons in 1951. This comparatively small output is not sufficient to meet local feed requirements.

Malayan trade in copra during 1951 and 1952 is shown in long tons in the following tabulation:

Imports	1951	1952
Country of origin		
Indonesia	85,915	78,642
North Borneo	8,860	6,793
Others	6,123	3,879
Total	100,898	89,314

Exports and re-exports	1951	1952
Country of destination		
United Kingdom	20,310	16,168
Denmark	13,630	2,200
Italy	9,900	2,150
Austria	9,840	550
Netherlands	8,435	6,650
Germany	8,240	4,650
Sweden	7,716	8,000
France	2,727	8,080
Others	9,223	13,045
Total	90,021	61,493

Source: Malayan Statistics

Imports of coconut oil are of minor importance but exports are of significance to the local economy. Trade the past 2 years was as follows in long tons:

Imports	1951	1952
Country of origin		
Thailand	157	119
Sarawak	26	561
Others	13	419
Total	196	1,099

Exports	1951	1952
Country of destination		
Burma	13,738	22,317
India	12,708	11,380
United Kingdom	8,277	1,657
Others	33,612	30,858
Total	68,335	66,212

Malaya is a net importer of copra cake. Trade in 1951 and 1952 was as follows:

Imports	1951	1952
Country of origin		
Indonesia	32,408	52,873
Thailand	5,515	5,016
Others	700	3,480
Total	38,623	61,369
Exports		
Country of destination		
Sarawak	545	768
North Borneo	97	180
Others	90	134
Total	732	1,082

Source: Malayan Statistics

Copra prices, which dropped to a low for the year of M$23.00 per picul (U.S. $128 per long ton) in mid-August, stood at M$39.50 ($219) on January 1, 1953 and M$43.50 ($241) by April 1. Similarly the price of coconut oil which was M$38.00 per picul (U.S. $211 per long ton) in mid-August, reached M$60.00 ($333) on January 1, and M$66.00 ($366) on March 30.

BELGIUM'S OILSEED IMPORTS DROP IN 1952

Belgium's imports of vegetable oilseeds in 1952 of almost 270,000 short tons, although substantial, were down about 16 percent from the record imports of 1951, reports Robert N. Anderson, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Brussels. This drop may be attributed partly to the exceptionally high stocks at the end of 1951.

Soybean imports last year dropped to 23,683 tons against 69,518 tons the year before. Imports from the United States fell to 18,982 tons, about half those of 1951. Flaxseed imports of 123,255 tons, about the same as in 1951, made up more than 45 percent of the total oilseed importation.

Imports of flaxseed from Canada and Mexico were larger last year while imports from the United States-25,921 tons, China and Argentina decreased. There was a decrease in the imports of palm kernels (1,205 tons) in 1952 but an increase in copra (95,371) and castor beans (16,913).

Vegetable oil imports last year, mostly crude oils to be refined, totaled 88,970 tons. These consisted mainly of palm oil from the Congo, peanut oil from the United States, and coconut oil from the Philippines. Lard and other pork fat imports totaled 5,206 tons including 3,804 tons of choice white grease, mainly from the United States. Belgium also imports large quantities of tallow, most of which is supplied by the United States. In 1952 tallow imports, both edible and inedible, amounted to 13,174 tons against 19,885 tons in 1951.

The Belgium oilseed markets early in April of this year were very dull and prices had slumped. A recent purchase of Manchurian soybeans was made at about $108 per short ton, c.i.f., payable in Belgian francs, which compared with $115 for United States beans. Oilseed crushers stated a few weeks earlier that they would like to buy United States soybeans if the prices were about $10 per ton lower.

Belgium millers are permitted to use dollars for purchasing soybeans and they have a market for the oil but they are unable to obtain dollars for imports of oil. The oilseed crushing capacity in Belgium, in terms of seeds, is in excess of 500,0000 tons per year, some 300,000 tons of which is solvent extraction. This includes linseed oil, all of which is first precrushed.

Exports of vegetable oils in 1952 totaled 103,227 tons as compared with 90,558 tons in 1951. These exports were mainly coconut oil to Western Germany and linseed oil to the United Kingdom.

Production of domestic oilseeds in Belgium is small. The 1952 output of rape and flaxseed amounted to about 4,000 and 19,560 tons respectively, against 5,270 and 19,320 tons the year before. Indigenous production of other oilseeds was negligible. Lard output last year was estimated at 11,800 tons and beef tallow at around 8,400 tons. Margarine production totaled 81,200 tons. There were no imports of margarine last year and exports amounted to only 103 tons.

WHALE AND SPERM OIL PRODUCTION TO DECLINE IN 1953

World production of whale and sperm oil in 1953 is expected to approximate 420,000 and 55,000 short tons, respectively, as compared with 460,000 and 80,000 tons last year, according to information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. The decline in both types of whale oil is the result of smaller returns from the recently completed 1952-53 Antarctic pelagic (open sea) operations.

Production of both whale and sperm oil during the 1952-53 Antarctic season totaled around 372,000 tons, according to provisional data submitted by George J. Dietz, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Oslo. This is almost 15 percent less than the combined quantity produced in the preceding season. The absolute drop in outturn, some 61,400 tons, was shared about equally between the two types of whale oil. However, when separately compared with corresponding 1951-52 data, whale oil output-350,788 tons--decreased by only 8 percent while sperm oil-21,209 tons--dropped 59 percent. Large stocks and unattractive prices were responsible for the sharp decline in Antarctic sperm oil production this year.

There were 16 expeditions operating this season, 3 less than in 1951-52, and included 7 Norwegian, 3 British, 2 Japanese, and one each from South Africa, the Soviet Union, the Netherlands, and Panama. Norway completed the season with roughly one-third of the total catch as compared with nearly one-half of the 1951-52 production.

WHALE AND SPERM OIL: Antarctic pelagic production, provisional 1952-53, revised 1951-52

(Short tons)

Country and expedition	Whale oil		Sperm oil		Total	
	1951-52	1952-53	1951-52	1952-53	1951-52	1952-53
NORWAY						
Antarctic	14,486	-	939	-	15,425	-
Kosmos III	24,295	-	2,162	-	26,457	-
Kosmos IV	26,376	31,725	3,271	1,032	29,647	32,757
Norhval	21,131	21,523	3,329	579	24,460	22,102
Pelagos	15,516	14,945	1,319	28	16,835	14,973
Sir James Clark Ross	18,332	18,387	1,167	-	19,499	18,387
Suderoy	13,086	9,898	1,095	37	14,181	9,935
Thorshammer	10,431	15,236	2,973	1,195	13,404	16,431
Thorshovet	15,546	26,068	4,052	2,230	19,598	28,298
Thorshovdi	22,208	-	1,394	-	23,602	-
Sub-total	181,407	137,782	21,701	5,101	203,108	142,883
UNITED KINGDOM						
Balaena	26,939	28,616	3,093	2,305	30,032	30,921
Southern Harvester	21,718	26,657	4,495	2,194	26,213	28,851
Southern Venturer	21,900	18,199	4,716	5,768	26,616	23,967
Sub-total	70,557	73,472	12,304	10,267	82,861	83,739
JAPAN						
Nisshin Maru	20,808	23,059	3,824	1,164	24,632	24,223
Tonan Maru	17,841	14,384	3,975	96	21,816	14,480
Baikal Maru 1/	-	-	1,987	-	1,987	-
Sub-total	38,649	37,443	9,786	1,260	48,435	38,703
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA						
Abraham Larsen	31,065	26,563	3,647	1,736	34,712	28,299
THE NETHERLANDS						
Willem Barendsz	17,360	18,847	3,229	358	20,589	19,205
PANAMA						
Olympic Challenger	17,910	28,924	210	1,717	18,120	30,641
U.S.S.R.						
Slava	26,188	27,757	1,373	770	27,561	28,527
Grand total 2/	383,136	350,788	52,250	21,209	435,386	371,997

1/ Engaged solely in sperm whaling. 2/ Does not include production of South Georgia shore-stations. In 1951-52 this production included 24,419 tons of whale oil and 1,198 tons of sperm oil.

The Association of Whaling Companies, Sandefjord.

Antarctic production of whale oil, including that which is produced by 3 South Georgia shore-stations, normally accounts for around 90 percent of the world supply. In 1952 whale oil output from this single area amounted to 408,600 tons, including South Georgia production of 25,400 tons. Most of the remaining 1952 production, estimated at some 50,000 tons, resulted from numerous shore-station operations in scattered parts of the world.

Norway, the leading producer of whale oil, produced some 192,000 tons in 1952, or 42 percent of the world total. The United Kingdom's output of 80,000 tons was the second largest followed by the Union of South Africa, Japan, the Soviet Union, Panama, and the Netherlands. Australia's shore-station output of about 17,000 tons was sharply above that of previous years.

Sperm whaling is not subject to the same strict international regulations that largely determine the quantity of whale oil produced each year. Although sperm oil is produced both before and during the Antarctic baleen whaling season by the participating expeditions, this production does not necessarily constitute the bulk of the world supply. Almost 60 percent of the sperm oil produced in 1951 occurred in areas outside the Antarctic. In 1952, Antarctic production of sperm oil amounted to 53,400 tons but dropped to approximately 23,000 tons in the season just passed. Although complete data are not yet available, production of sperm oil in "other" areas in 1952, and probably 1953, is not expected to exceed 30,000 tons. Of the total 1952 sperm oil output, Norway accounted for slightly more than 30 percent, or 25,000 tons. Other principal producers last year were the United Kingdom, Japan and the Soviet Union.

U.K. PERMITS FREE IMPORTS OF GRAIN AND FEEDSTUFFS

In accordance with an announcement of the British Board of Trade, open individual licenses are being issued to British importers allowing them to import wheat and flour, feed grain and miscellaneous feedstuffs from any country, including the dollar area, effective May 1, 1953 to June 30, 1954, according to Eric Englund, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, London.

In its original announcement last January of intentions to decontrol trade in bread and feed grains, the British Government stated that imports from dollar areas would continue to be restricted in order to safeguard the balance of payments, but that some imports from such areas would be permitted if necessary to maintain reasonable prices and to prevent shortages. While the Board of Trade's recent announcement removes all restrictions on bread and feedgrains until June 30, 1954, it was indicated that controls may again be imposed if imports become excessive.

The decision to place Britain's grain trade on a free import basis is the first major departure from the system of restricting imports from dollar areas. The freedom to import from any source will eliminate the premiums that have heretofore been paid for nondollar grain. Not only will the price paid for imports from any source now be comparable, but the free movement of foreign grain into the country will also tend to limit price increases for domestic grains. It should be noted, however, that the Government intends to permit unrestricted imports from nonsterling areas only as long as the country's payments position is not jeopardized.

A related problem is the effect of decontrol on British price support schemes which assure farmers minimum prices. If world prices should drop below the support level, grain could move into the country and depress domestic prices. In that event, imports might again be restricted, or British farmers might be given a subsidy to make up the difference between import prices and support prices.

The American Embassy points out that the issuance of open individual licenses should result in increased United States exports to the United Kingdom, especially of such items as oil cake and meal, the shipments of which have either been limited or entirely restricted because of existing currency restrictions. Corn and wheat may also move in larger quantities. However, whether or not purchase will be made from the United States will be determined by such factors as competitive prices and the availability of supplies from other sources.

SPRING SOWINGS BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

Seeding of small spring grains (wheat, barley and oats) had been completed by mid-April in a number of southern regions in the Soviet Union. It was officially reported that, by April 15 the acreage seeded to all crops in the Soviet Union was 8 million acres larger than that seeded on the corresponding date last year.

In a number of regions, however, sowings are lagging. In general, weather conditions during the current season appear to be unfavorable to field work, as was also the case in the spring of last year. Another adverse factor is the large area that has to be plowed because of the nonfulfillment of the goal for plowing last fall of an area that was to be used for seeding this spring.

Slow progress in planting of forage and other nongrain crops, such as sunflower seed and cotton, was reported. Soil moisture has been generally satisfactory or abundant, which must be regarded as a favorable factor in the crop outlook so far, especially since a considerable part of Russian agricultural area is in the semi-arid zone and subject to frequently recurrent devastating droughts. A critical period of several months remains, however, before the crop is made and harvested.

Spring sowing of wheat in Hungary was reported completed by the end of March (March 15 was the deadline). While normally very little wheat is seeded in the spring, this year's spring wheat acreage was supposed to have been increased materially to offset losses in winter grain. Sowings of barley, oats, and sunflower are reportedly lagging. Shortage of seed contributed to the lag. Rains during April were beneficial to crops. Shortage of seed also reportedly hampers sowing in Rumania.

Spring sowings are in progress in Bulgaria, with the seeding of early spring crops reportedly complete in some areas, while planting of cotton, corn and other late crops was nearing completion.

JAPAN EXPECTS TO CURTAIL SOYBEAN IMPORTS

The Government of Japan expects to curtail imports of soybeans to 234,790 short tons (7.8 million bushels) in fiscal 1953 (April 1-March 31) from 383,600 tons (12.8 million bushels) in 1952, according to H. W. Ford, American Embassy, Tokyo. This decision was reached in view of the bumper crop of rapeseed produced in 1952 and to restricted dollar allocations. The Government also plans to import 80,910 tons of soybean cake.

As of April 1, 1953, dollars were allocated to soybean refineries based on their actual consumption in 1952. At the same time the Government allocated for the first half of fiscal 1953 the amounts of $32,898,000 for the importation of 245,920 short tons of oilseeds, $3,428,000 for 12,565 tons of oils, $9,268,000 for 59,525 tons of tallow, $11,070,000 for 93,695 tons of soybeans, and $2,900,000 for 31,965 tons of soybean cake. Most of the soybeans and soybean cake is expected to be purchased from the United States, if the prices of beans and cake from the 1953 crop are as low as expected by the Japanese.

Japan's 1952 fats and oils situation was featured by (1) a sharp increase in production of rapeseed, (2) consumption exceeding prewar levels, and (3) normal year-end stocks compared with unusually high stocks the previous year.

Rapeseed and soybeans are the principal oilseeds produced in Japan; peanuts, sesame and flaxseed are of lesser importance. Rapeseed production in 1952 was an unprecedented 311,200 short tons, or 58 percent higher than in the preceding year, due mainly to a record 548,000 acres in this crop, or 52 percent more than in 1951. Most of the increase was at the expense of reduced acreages in wheat and barley. Soybean production amounted to almost 19.2 million bushels or 10 percent more than in 1951 despite a slight decrease in planted area.

During the fiscal year 1952 Japan consumed an estimated 339,000 tons of fats and oils, or approximately 15 percent more than in 1951. Per capita consumption in fiscal 1952 was estimated at 5.6 grams per day in urban areas and 3.2 grams in rural areas, and is still far below international levels. There is, however, a rising recognition of fats and oils items as an important source of food energy. For 1953, consumption is estimated at 380,000 tons or an increase of 12 percent from 1952, and further expansion is expected in future years.

In fiscal 1952 Japan depended upon imported oilseeds for approximately 58 percent of its local requirements but oilseed imports were only about one half the volume purchased in 1951. The large carry-over from 1951 and the sharp increase in rapeseed production caused the curtailment in purchases from foreign sources. Imports of fats, including lard and tallow, were more than twice the 1951 volume. The value of the soybeans and tallow imported from the dollar area exceeded the dollar exchange allocated by the Government's automatic approved system for the second half of fiscal 1952. As a result, the Government in February this year temporarily suspended imports of soybeans and tallow.

During the calendar year 1952, Japan imported from Communist China, on a barter basis, small quantities of soybeans, perilla and tung oil, and fairly large volumes of peanuts, cottonseed, sesame, and flaxseed.

Japan's principal imports of fats, oils, and oilseeds during 1951 and 1952 were as follows in short tons:

Commodity	1951	1952
Vegetable oilseeds		
Soybeans	351,097	184,119
Peanuts	16,207	8,991
Castor beans	14,905	14,436
Copra	42,480	29,321
Cottonseed	25,216	31,069
Kapok seed	10,357	15,734
Flaxseed	61,085	14,666
Other	13,813	6,007
Total	535,160	304,343
Vegetable oils		
Linseed	699	2,094
Cottonseed	942	1,497
Tung	2,421	1,134
Palm	557	2,152
Other	2,062	522
Total	6,681	7,399
Fats		
Tallow	31,384	71,516
Lard	2,687	736
Other	40	32
Total	34,111	72,284

Source: Ministry of Finance

Stocks of oils and fats as of December 31, 1952, were estimated at the relatively modest level of 57,320 tons or 64 percent less than the corresponding date in 1951. Rapeseed and peanut oil stocks accounted for 33 and 35 percent, respectively, of the 1952 year-end stocks.

To stabilize the price of the 1953 rapeseed crop, the Government is planning to purchase one third of the output, if necessary. The Government-held rapeseed will be released on the market as circumstances dictate.

Producer prices of soybeans and rapeseed dropped sharply during the calendar year 1952. By December they were $148 and $142 per metric ton ($134 and $129 per short ton), respectively, compared with $164 and $199 ($149 and $181) in December 1951. Import prices have shown a similar downward trend.

DANISH BUTTER AND CHEESE EXPORTS, FIRST QUARTER, 1953

Denmark's exports of butter and cheese in the first quarter of 1953 show an overall increase over the corresponding quarter of 1952, according to unofficial trade sources. Cheese exports were down somewhat in total due to smaller quantities going to the United Kingdom. However, increased butter exports to that country and in total accounted for an increase of about 13 percent. No butter was exported to the U.S.S.R. this year but increased exports to France more than made up for the loss in that market.

DENMARK: Exports of butter and cheese during first 3 months of 1953 and 1952

Country of destination	Butter		Cheese	
	1953	1952	1953	1952
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
England	35,364	28,982	6,587	10,346
West Germany	1,047	2,919	9,969	9,650
East Germany	2,945	1,911	985	375
Finland	2,205	873	--	--
U.S.S.R.	--	6,936	--	--
France	10,077	60	33	11
Italy	256	1,358	3,545	1,023
Switzerland	1,329	1,506	--	--
U.S.A. 1/	2,077	1,279	1,133	917
South America	284	1,858	--	--
Africa	999	1,810	933	1,193
Sweden	--	--	622	895
Other markets	1,877	1,744	1,725	1,457
Total	58,460	51,236	25,532	25,867

1/ Including U.S. Forces in Germany